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THE PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

A Selwyn House School Publication

December 1999



The Parents' NEWSLETTER

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From the Elementary School Play,
Hi Ho Robin Hood

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Message from the Headmaster

As we complete the last year of the millennium, Selwyn House School and all its constituents can look back and be proud of the many noteworthy accomplishments in the School's 91-year history. The past, however, is not our main interest. The School's focus is on moving into the future with vision and determination.

Most parents are aware that the School is currently in the early phase of a significant capital fund-raising campaign. This campaign will allow Selwyn House to build upon our past successes to ensure a promising future for our students.

Selwyn House has served the Westmount and Greater Montreal communities with distinction since 1908. The School's goals are to produce well-rounded graduates who think for themselves, who have a solid moral and ethical foundation, who conduct themselves with dignity and common sense, and who are committed to their families and communities.

World events continue to heighten the importance of a good education and, therefore, the value of Selwyn House to its community. In today's knowledge-based economy, our children must have not only a solid grounding in the fundamentals, but also the ability to adapt to an ever changing world. By offering a first-class education in a multicultural setting, Selwyn House prepares children for this evolving world and enables them to attain their full potential.

Maintaining this standard of excellence is important for our children's future. It is equally important for Montreal and its place on the world stage. The reality is that, today, Selwyn House requires a different kind of teaching space to meet the challenges of a global society, different from those which existed when the School first occupied its current facilities. In order to maintain the breadth and quality of our academic programming into the next millennium, we need to expand and modernize our classrooms, our library, our laboratories, dining hall and other areas of the School. Furthermore, in order that we continue to have a diverse body of students, we need to ensure that endowment funds are available for qualified students.

In short, we must make the physical environment conform with the quality of our programmes and ensure that deserving students are here to profit from the education.

The centrepiece of our plan is the construction of a new facility in the west playground. This would free up space in the Lucas Building to expand the classrooms, upgrade our library and computer labs to a full-scale Learning Centre, expand the dining hall and kitchens and give a general face lift to existing school buildings. We also expect that the current campaign will allow us to increase our endowments and thereby help us preserve our diverse and exceptionally talented student body.

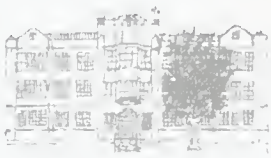
During this early phase of the campaign, major individual donors, foundations and businesses are solicited. We are very encouraged by the results we have obtained to date. Subsequent phases of the campaign will canvass all constituents: parents, alumni and friends of the School.

Parents will hear more details of the plan and of their opportunity to become involved during the ensuing months. We look forward to the next phases of the development of our plans.

In the meantime, we wish all members of the Selwyn House community the very best for a happy holiday season.



William Mitchell



Fighting for Children's Rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrates its 10th anniversary.

BY ARNOLD ENGEL, 9B

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is probably the most important document in every child's life. It guarantees the fundamental rights of children—namely the rights to education, health care, and freedom of speech and religion—but unfortunately, has not been implemented to its fullest capacity. The CRC, the most widely signed human-rights convention in the world, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. This September, the Children's Rights arm of the UN commemorated the event but, more importantly, is looking ahead for ways to better put this Convention into place in the most poverty-stricken areas of the world. The UN invited several children and young adults to speak in Geneva, Switzerland on behalf of all those who are protected by this Convention.

It was quite an honour to be asked to participate in the sessions and to represent the world's children. I made it my personal initiative to research everything I could on how the UN can better implement the CRC. I came up with many different plans. Finally, I hit on one and ran with it from there. With my paper complete, I was ready to head off to the UN to accurately represent the children of the world.

At the UN, my time was spent attending two three-hour sessions each day and eating with several

other delegates during our lunch break. Following the sessions, there were other events that enabled me to speak with fellow delegates and committee members.

It was quite an experience to embark on an airplane and go thousands of miles away from home, alone, to a foreign country. I had never stayed in a hotel room alone before, and I had never used public transit so many times in a city that I knew very little about. It was almost as if I became a citizen of the city and lived there, because by the end of my stay, I knew it as well as the back of my hand. Geneva's culture is quite interesting, and I was glad to be able to have observed it. First, I noticed that the transit system is based on the honour system, with no one checking if one has paid. Also, I noticed that the citizens are very concerned with keeping their city clean. While touring the *Musée de la Croix Rouge*, I noted how everyone in Geneva is willing to help, even though I looked a little bit like a tourist. I was very glad that I had a great tool with me, which was my knowledge of French. I truly appreciated all those long French periods, when I saw how it changed my trip. I was with another delegate named Patricia Cruzado, an 18-year-old Peruvian who spoke only Spanish, when I realized how being able to communicate comfortably with the locals enriched the experience exponentially.

This life experience certainly has

shifted my future in a way I had never thought imaginable. I regard this trip as a turning point in my life, because never again will I look at things the same way. I left Geneva with a sense of duty to represent the children in all my future endeavors. The one lesson, above all others, I took away from the conference is that those who are unable to stand up for themselves must be able to represent themselves in some way.

Free the Children, the organization that pushes for children's rights that I am a member of (1 of 100,000 in total), has chapters in over 25 countries. We, at the Montreal chapter of Free the Children, are pleased to announce our plans to raise money for a school in Nicaragua, which would provide education to children who have no other chance of getting one. 

Editor's Note: Arnold Engel is the founder of the Montreal chapter of Free the Children, established in 1996. He was invited to participate in the World Civil Society Conference held in Montreal on December 8, 1999, to discuss how to "strengthen the governing principles of the UN".

Fall Event '99 Meets with Unprecedented Success

Also known as the Garage Sale, this year's Fall Event accomplished amazing things!

BY SANDY MARTZ, FALL EVENT CO-ORDINATOR

No words can adequately express our elation at the success of this year's annual fund-raising weekend, truly beyond our wildest dreams. We measure this success on many levels. In dollars, our net profit was over \$70,000, representing an increase of more than \$21,000 over last year. More importantly, however, it symbolizes the spirit of the community and the good will fostered by the event. The commitment and the co-operative efforts of our dedicated Fall Event Committee, Selwyn House staff, students, Old Boys and both current and former parents ensured that the goals we set for ourselves would be met. In fact, we exceeded our expectations considerably.

What began many years ago as a very modest garage sale has evolved over the years into a unique, exciting and popular event attended by members of the entire Selwyn House family, as well as the community at large.

Fall Event '99 began on Friday



Ben Spencer, 11B, lending a hand



The "Fall Event '99" Committee

afternoon, October 22, with the opening of the Silent Auction; the Home, Food and Craft Fair; and the Bake Sale. Festivities continued Saturday with all of the above, pumpkin sales (Senior Hockey Team), ongoing sales of our famous lasagnas and quiches and a mammoth garage sale. Raffle tickets were sold over the weekend for a chance to win \$1,000 or one of 160 great prizes. The grand-prize winner was Katherine Kay, who works in our After-School Programme.

Some Highlights

Silent Auction:

This event was initiated three years ago under the leadership of our Silent Auction "diva", Martha Beattie, and, this year, was co-ordinated by Martha, Sheila Jablonski and Tracy Weinrich. There were 72 fabulous items to entice even the most skeptical bidder, and when the final bell was rung at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, \$41,000 was ours.

Home, Food and Craft Fair:

The fair was co-ordinated by Ingrid Bryson, Wally Fish, Alison Matheson and Kristin Shannon, and the dining hall exquisitely transformed by Anna Rochon. The crafts were unique, with a most interesting array of items. The "pantry" was enormously popular, including Reggie Robbins' "Lemon Tree" delights, as was the Gourmet Food Court. The "High Tea" wagon, which was co-ordinated by Maria Zammit and Lianne Samuels, and supported by all the Kindergarten moms, was a hit.

Bake Sale:

Co-ordinated by Janet Bourke, the Bake Sale was bigger and better than ever. It opened at morning recess, so the boys could enjoy first crack at the goodies. By Friday evening, six tables full of baked delicacies were reduced to 1 1/2.

Lasagnas and Quiches:

Cathy Govan, the supremely capable overseer and co-ordinator of our cooking weekend, did it again, with



Maria Zammit and the Tea Wagon

the generous food donations of the Zammit family and the help of Maria Zammit, Tracey Wathier and the countless volunteers. This year, according to popular opinion, the lasagnas were the best ever! They, and the quiches, literally walked out the door, with over 600 sold.



Eric Martz, 9A, and Jason Leopold, 5B, on donut duty

Garage Sale:

Over \$6,000 in sales of new boots and shoes, over \$4,000 in clothing sales and record breaking sales in other areas of the jam-packed Lucas Gym all contributed to our highest grossing Garage Sale to date. Other invaluable committee

members not previously mentioned are Valerie Brooks, Barbara Campbell, Judi Fish-Levitt, Teri Gnaedinger, Nathalie Melnikoff, Heather Potter and Najwa Sallman (publicity).

At Founder's Day on November 24, we were very proud to donate our profits as follows:

- \$20,000 to the Selwyn House School Capital Campaign
- \$20,000 to the Selwyn House School Trip Fund, which subsidizes academic and athletic trips
- \$12,000 to support integration of computer technology into the curriculum, and upgrading of technology
- \$9,000 to the Home-Care Department of the Montreal Children's Hospital to establish a Resource Centre for the families of chronically ill children and staff
- \$3,000 to the Conrad H. Harrington Scholarship Fund



Claire Matheson and Anna Maria Zammit hard at work layering lasagnas

- \$1,500 to each of the following:
 1. The Amalia Criticos-Kyres Memorial Fund for Hope and Care at the Jewish General Hospital
 2. The Nancy Pitfield Memorial Fund, Canadian Cancer Society
 3. The Centre for the Arts in Human Development at Concordia University (creative arts therapy for developmentally disabled young adults)
 4. Westmount Park School's Breakfast Programme.

Thank you to everyone who played a part, big or small, in this memorable and rewarding experience. 🐾



Kaelyn, James, Alex (friend) and Beth McMillan enjoying Saturday morning refreshments

The Parents' Page

BY SHARON COZENS, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

The Selwyn House Parent Committees continue to impress everyone with their energy, enthusiasm and ideas to support the School. A new Parent Committee Bulletin Board, located at the entrance to the Lucas Gym, has been posted for parents to learn about on-going projects and upcoming meetings. The following is an update of the activities that have been happening recently.

Class Parents

Thanks to Class Parents, the School is really in the holiday spirit. The dining room and entrances to both the Lucas and Macaulay buildings have been decorated with festive garlands and Hannukah decorations. As well, a new tradition has been created with the *Selwyn House Family Holiday Tree*. Members of the Selwyn House community were invited to decorate trees with ornaments representing the cultural diversity of our community.

Community Service Committee

Over 20 boxes of children's outerwear were collected for local children, and more continues to be brought in. Also, students and their families were encouraged to help pack Christmas

boxes at Share the Warmth on December 11 and 17. Ms. Beckerleg's Grade 1 class will be singing and serving tea at the Montreal Association for the Blind. All the while, a database listing the needs in the community is being created to allow the committee to see where their energies can be directed.

Nearly New Uniform Sale

Some happy parents took advantage of the uniform items that were on sale in November.

Parent Support Committee

The Parent Effectiveness Lecture, organized by this committee, took place on November 10, and was a great success. Over 70 parents listened to two wonderful speakers, fellow parent, Dr. Paul Rossy, and School Counsellor, Ms. Minna Shulman, about ways in which parents can be more effective.

Social Committee

To welcome new parents to the School, a *wine and cheese cocktail* was hosted by the Social Committee on November 22 at the home of Mrs. Lee Scammell to give parents the opportunity to get to know one another. Over 40 parents attended.

Committee members also assisted on November 27 at the Entrance Exam Day for 2000-2001 candidates, answering the questions of prospective parents.

Staff Support

The faculty appreciates the helping hands available to them on a regular basis. Here are a few ways in which parents have been assisting:



Mr. F. William Molson and Mrs. Lee Scammell at the Grade 7 wine and cheese

- Creating backdrops and sewing costumes for the Elementary School play, *Hi Ho Robin Hood*
- Reading in French in Grade 2
- Assisting with a Grades 4 and 5 French project
- Preparing Admission Information packages
- Lunch volunteers met to discuss their role at lunch and the role of student monitors

Nutrition Committee

The committee, which includes parents and students, under the chairmanship of faculty member Bill Bedard, toured the kitchen and met with Chef Normand Brault at its first meeting.

Founder's Day

Founder's Day is a time to thank all our parent volunteers, which we did on November 24. In lieu of being thanked with flowers from the School, our volunteers asked that a book be donated to the Library on behalf of the Parent Committees.

Once again, thanks to their volunteer spirit, the students benefit from this gesture. 🐾



Dr. Paul Rossy speaking at Parent Effectiveness Lecture

The Evolution of a Blazer

BY BARB MOLSON, PARENT AND ARGYLE SHOP VOLUNTEER

The Black Wool Flannel Blazer: 1908 to the early 1980s

The younger students in Form D to Form A wore a heavy black wool jacket piped with yellow-gold ribbon, grey flannel shorts and a crested pea cap. Once in

Grade 5, the boys wore a black wool flannel blazer, with grey flannels and a striped school tie. These heavy jackets were not particularly tailored and were very warm.



Jonathan Levitt, 1A, modelling the old-style black wool flannel blazer piped with yellow-gold ribbon and pea cap

The Hopsack Blazer: 1970s to 1994

This blazer had a typical English tailored fit, very narrow and high-waisted in the body. The tighter arm-hole, narrow shoulders and hips did not compliment all body types, and, therefore,

became tighter and smaller much sooner than necessary. The polyester-blend fabric, although very rugged, was difficult to style. The polyester did not breathe and thus became very



W. Ainley (1967) in hopsack blazer



Eric Marler (1945) in black wool flannel blazer

warm to wear indoors.

The supplier for this blazer and other uniform needs was located at a downtown retail location, which eventually closed up. At this time, the School thought about opening their own uniform shop

where profits could be modest and retained in the school, which would benefit students. Consequently, it was a good time to improve on the blazer's design.

The New Blazer: 1994 to present

This blazer was designed and engineered by parent Mr. Bram Elkin, father of Jeremy, 7A, who has spent countless hours behind the scenes at The Argyle Shop. Bram's expertise came from working in his family's business, which has manufactured exclusive men's suits in Quebec since 1898.

Bram created our pattern for the blazer supplier by using the more relaxed-fit, European styling which compliments more body types than the previous design. The "off-the rack" sizes fit 99% of the boys, and custom tailoring is done for the few who need it, at no extra charge! The jacket's generous shoulder and body allow for more freedom of movement and, therefore, less tearing and ripping. The sturdy lining is the same as used in the MUC Police uniforms. The shop has had numerous compliments on the jacket's light

wool-blend fabric, which is ordered especially for our school from one of the best mills. This fabric breathes much better than the

heavy polyester-blend hopsack used in prior years, and the crested buttons are dipped in 18K gold so they do not peel. Also, the Selwyn crest is now embroidered on the pocket, not sewn on. All of these features have resulted in a very fine garment that keeps on looking good. Of course, parents have to realize that no fine garment can hold up to extreme abuse or mistreatment.

Not many of us know how much thought and effort went in to creating our "new" blazer. In fact, we are now having requests from other school uniform shops to share our design and fabric!

On behalf of the Selwyn House community, The Argyle Shop volunteers would like to thank Bram for all the time and enthusiasm that he has given to creating the new blazer, as well as the countless volunteer hours personally checking orders received in the shop, consulting with the various suppliers at ordering time and fitting our sons at the August sale. **Thanks Bram, for taking time out to make our uniform a success!** 



William Molson, 7B, and Justin Kuzmicki, 7A in new blazer (1993)

Elementary School Certificates

October '99

Grade	Awards	Homeroom A	Homeroom B
K	• Influence positive sur la classe • Progrès remarquables en français • Curiosité intellectuelle	Erik Samuel Jake Levy Jonathan Kwok	Alexandre Ferland Mateo Della Valle Nuvnish Beejan
Gr. 1	• Positive influence within the class • Intellectual curiosity	Jack Provencher Willem Le Duc	Michael Smith Nicholas Mathé
Gr. 2	• Positive influence within the class • Intellectual curiosity	Jesse Graff Minh Tri Nguyen	Robbie Fitzpatrick Paul Mansour-Geoffrion
Gr. 3	• Positive attitude and commitment to learning • Responsible attitude towards himself and others	Derek Burrows Louis Gervais Breffni Boyd Philippe Garneau-Halliday Sasha Papich	Ryan Brun Robert Stack Thomas Nichols
Gr. 4	• Positive attitude and commitment to learning • Responsible attitude towards himself and others	Christopher Au Mark Mettler-Warner Olivier Laroche Matthew Vesnaver Ramin Mohsenin Fraser Usher-Jones	Nicholas Delplace William MacCulloch Frédéric Saleh Derek Hallward
Gr. 5	• Esprit de coopération • Progrès remarquables en français • Attitude positive face à l'apprentissage	Vincent Charles Hodder Charles-Edouard Bonaldo-Bourque Stephen Tsoukas Nicolas Congram Robert Abelson Samer Balaghi Robert Hinrichsen	Kristian Valenta Dino Zammit James McQueen Kyle Burrows Philip Tsoukas
Gr. 6	• Esprit de coopération • Progrès remarquables en français • Attitude positive face à l'apprentissage	Charles-Alexandre Vennat Olivier Saleh Michael Sutton Stefan Luu Benjamin Wilner Christopher Yee Wong Alex Morton Ian Matheson	Philip Cutler Charles Fortin Kyle Spiller Philip Smith Niki Thorpe Sean Grover Gabriel Maldoff

French Book Fair

Selwyn House hosts Librairie Monet's first full-fledged Foire du Livre

BY VIRGINIA FERGUSON, LIBRARIAN

On behalf of the Selwyn House Library staff and volunteers, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the parents, boys and friends of the Selwyn House community for their whole-hearted support of Librairie Monet's first full-fledged *Foire du Livre*, or *Expo Livres* as they call it, which took place on November 9 and 10.

The boys were filled with anticipation, as Lizette Anfousse, *animatrice*, actor and illustrator supreme visited them just the day before. She also is the caregiver for the wonderful creature, Pichou, created by her niece, author Ginnette Anfousse, in such titles as *La Chicane* and *Je Boude*. Mme Anfousse's visit to the lower grades featured interactive story telling, song, dance and much laughter.

As Librairie Monet arrived with a wonderful selection of books for all ages and interests, which were displayed on their trademark electric blue covered table, the older Elementary School boys were treated to a series of writing workshops given by author Agathe Genois. It was great fun to see her novels quickly purchased at the *Foire* at the conclusion of her workshops.



Agathe Genois speaks to students at Foire du Livre

Librairie Monet also featured a door-prize event, with a special book for each grade level interest. Thanks to them for their consideration.

Thank you to all who came in support of the library, to buy books for personal enjoyment and for gifts, as well as to those who made unique donations to the SHS Library collection. Librairie Monet was quite happy with the more than \$3,000 in sales. Fifteen per cent of that total went to buy some wonderful new titles for our French collection for all grade levels. Thank you so very much. My thanks also go to Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette and the Elementary French Department for their help in securing our great speakers.

I had the good fortune to purchase *A Montreal Century* for the SHS Library at the Paragraphe and Gazette sponsored "Books and Breakfast" at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on November 15.

I make a habit of asking all the authors present to sign the books I purchase at these affairs "for the boys of Selwyn House". Author Roy McGregor (*Home Team*, *Fathers*, *Sons* and *Hockey in Canada* and the wildly popular junior hockey novels *The Screech Owl Series*) signed his new book about his father, *A Life in the Bush; lessons from my father*, which is now a part of the School's collection. The reading he gave from his book was very moving, particularly the instance of the animal visitations upon his father's death. This librarian definitely recommends this book for the older boys. We probably shall read a chapter or two in Grades 10 and 11 Senior Story Hour very soon.



Zachary Shiller, 4A, Christopher Au, 4A, Ryan Quinn, 4A, and Mark Mettler-Warner, 4A

This book would make a great holiday gift item.

Another wonderful gift item would be *Stories from the Ice Storm*, featuring a vignette with Selwyn House in the background, the ill-fated train trip west for sports just at the beginning of the storm week. I am sure we all have stories we could have shared with editor Mark Abley. Again, these books now are all signed items in the Selwyn House collection.

One last set of thanks goes to my wonderful library volunteers for performing all the necessary tasks and last-minute details that make a great event. I would like to especially thank Nancy Bloomfield and Nadine Tsoukas for arranging the work schedule for adults who help answer questions, as well as for those who straighten book piles, stuff book sacks and compile the taxes. All of them make life easier for all concerned. Thank you to both of you, and thank you each and all. 

A Selwyn Halloween



Groovy Baby! Selwyn House's own team of Austin Powers



Norma Workman disguised as a pumpkin and Kathy Funamoto as a lady bug



Christopher Matte, KA, dressed as a lion, welcomes parents to the Kindergarten (KA) Halloween show



Maxim Vidricaire, KA, as Big Bird



Philip Tsoukas, 5B, Waseem Haja, 5B, and Samer Balaghi, 5A



Victoria Stark and students in 2A making Halloween treats



Louis Edouard Ducharme, Max Koenekoop, Theo Kyres and Andrew Dobie, 4A



Students in KB singing songs at the Halloween show for parents



Patrick Malouf and Mark Esposito, 6B

Sculpture and More

Middle School Students visit the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

BY ELLEN PINCHUK, ART TEACHER

As part of their curriculum, the Grades 7 and 8 art classes, both first and second semesters, have the privilege of visiting the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for a sculpture workshop. This semester's classes have completed their visits, which were a resounding success.

Even though the workshop is described in the museum's bulletin as "exploring sculpture, life-size or miniature, figurative or abstract," the interests of the students, as well as what is currently at the museum, are not overlooked. Because the show of Holly King's *Landscapes of the Imagination* was on exhibition when we had our workshops, we had the incredible opportunity to visit it.

Holly King creates photographic landscapes that delve into an imaginary world filled with intricate and colourful metaphors. Objects, painted materials, backdrops, sheets

of plastic and projected light are metamorphosed through photography. After she photographs her miniature creations, she destroys them so that each image is brand new.

The boys were fascinated with the enormous photographs of tiny worlds that vibrated with light.

Back in the permanent collection, the students compared sculptures from different eras, and then did quick sketches of some of them. Following this activity, they were ushered into the studio room to create their own clay busts. Now the moment of truth!

Starting from a pancake, working through to a taco and ending with a meatball (it was, after all, just before



lunch, and food was on everyone's minds anyway), the boys worked the clay into head and shoulder shapes. They pinched out noses and ears, added details with their fingers and refinements with tools. Finally, the students were able to sit back and appreciate the results of their efforts. Once back at school, after a few days to harden, the sculptures were given a coat of varnish.

The whole museum experience is one that I, as a teacher, enjoy immensely, and it pleases me greatly that the boys also do. I look forward to next semester's trips. Who knows what lies in store for us? 

The City of Energy

The Grade 8 students visit Trois Rivières and Shawinigan, the City of Energy

BY MATTHEW LITVACK, 8C

On November 5, the Grade 8 students took an extraordinary trip to Trois Rivières and Shawinigan, a.k.a. the city of energy. The fabulous trip debuted with an enduring bus ride to Trois Rivières. Once we arrived, we immediately noticed the odd surrounding smell. Inside the pulp and paper factory, the origin of the not-so-delightful scent was immediately explained to us. We were given an intriguing tour, which ended with us fabricating our own paper. One of the students even tasted the pulp!

There was no time to lose. We were off to the City of Energy, Shawinigan.

Upon our arrival in Shawinigan, we could not help but notice a 36-storey tower, which we later climbed. But before doing this, we had a multimedia presentation to see. This "must see" presentation was

three dimensional and full of facts. After being spellbound by the exhibit, we went to see the other exhibits for a while, but there was always plenty left to do. We then



Abibou Ngom and Mohsin Aziz, 8C, with the paper that they made at the pulp and paper factory in Trois Rivières

ascended the immense observation tower. The outstanding view from the top was spectacular and well worth the climb. After coming back down to ground level, we had a calm lunch. We were going to need the energy for the next exhibits. Aboard a trolley, we went on the historical sector of the tour.

We arrived a couple of minutes later at a building where the Northern Aluminum Company power station once stood. The surrounding sights explain hydroelectricity and its history in Shawinigan. We were then off to the rotunda, where we attended a riveting multimedia presentation depicting the evolution of Shawinigan on three screens.

Our trip came to end, and we disappeared from the City of Energy to find ourselves back at Selwyn House School two hours later. 🏰

Middle and Senior School Interdisciplinary Trip

BY THERESE HO, EDITOR

Leaving on an overnight flight on March 9, 2000, Middle and Senior School students will embark on an 11-day trip to Europe.

Their first destination is Madrid, Spain, the country's capital city, where they will spend two days. Accompanied by Mme Nancy Allard-Coutu, trip organizer, and Mr. Dean Phillips, science teacher,

the students will also spend one day in Granada, located next to the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Andalusia in the south of Spain. They will then find themselves on the sun-drenched southern coast in Costa del Sol, where they will spend three days.

After leaving Spain, the group will take a one-day excursion to

Tangiers, Morocco on the north African coast.

The final destination for these world travellers is England, where they will spend the majority of their time in London, but will also make a day trip to Stonehenge and Salisbury.

Interested students can contact Mme Allard-Coutu at 931-9481 ext. 300 for more information. 🏰

La sixième en route vers le sommet

PAR CLAUDE CHAINÉ, PROFESSEUR DE LA 6E

Les activités de plein-air et l'escalade constituent des occasions privilégiées de révéler des qualités et aptitudes de leader. C'est avec cette idée en tête que les professeurs de la sixième avaient prévu un séjour dans les Laurentides au début du mois d'octobre.



Professeurs: Claude Chainé et Jean Pruneau

La première journée s'est déroulée à l'auberge du P'tit Bonheur, un endroit tout indiqué pour les activités de plein-air. Divisés en trois équipes

aux noms associés à l'escalade (Les mousquetons, Les premiers de cordées et les descendeurs en 8), les garçons ont eu l'occasion de participer à diverses activités comme le canot, le tir à l'arc, l'hébertisme et la survie en forêt. La température a été particulièrement agréable lors de cette journée, ce qui a contribué à en faire un succès. En soirée, un grand jeu de chasse aux chevreuils a été organisé, ainsi qu'une randonnée en canot sous les étoiles!

Le lendemain, en raison du temps incertain, l'activité d'escalade s'est déplacée à l'intérieur au gymnase Allez-Up. Les garçons ont alors eu l'occasion de défier la gravité à de nombreuses reprises sur les parois du gymnase. Certains ont impressionné par leurs habiletés et leur ténacité.



Les garçons de la sixième avec Jean Pruneau

Tout le monde a eu l'occasion de grimper suffisamment pour ressentir quelques douleurs aux bras en fin d'après-midi!

Les deux jours auront permis aux garçons de la sixième de mieux se connaître et de découvrir des leaders parmi leur groupe. À tous les niveaux, l'expérience de leadership a donc été un succès! 🏆

Souvenirs de la classe rouge

PAR ROBERT HINRICHSSEN, 5A

Le nom classe rouge en intrigue plusieurs. Nous appelons classe rouge un séjour effectué au moment où la nature se pare de magnifiques couleurs automnales; sauf que cette année, 15 cm de neige nous attendaient à notre arrivée... ce fut certainement un séjour mémorable.

*Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette et
Martin Cloutier, titulaires de 5^e*

Nous, en 5^e année, sommes allés en classe rouge pour trois jours à la base de plein air Jouvence. Cette dernière est

située dans le parc du Mont-Orford, à environ deux heures de Montréal.

Nous avons fait beaucoup d'activités telles le tir à l'arc, le canot, la sculpture sur pierre à savon, la survie en forêt, l'hébertisme et les animations en soirée. Pendant ces



Rangée arrière de gauche à droite, Daniel Blanshay, 5A, Daniel Knecht, 5B, Brendan Cheong, 5A, Harib Hassan, 5B, Jean-Alexandre Luc-Bernier, 5A, Gavin Kenneally, 5B, Aidan Bourke, 5A. Rangée devant: Daniel Knecht, 5B, Mathew Buchanan, 5B, Mark Sadaka, 5A, Ryland Diome, 5A, and Kristian Valenta, 5B

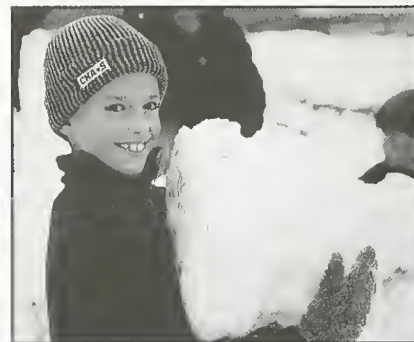
activités, nous avons, entre autres, atteint la cible au tir à l'arc, construit un abri et mis à l'épreuve nos habiletés dans une course à obstacles. Durant nos temps libres, nous avons fait des forts avec la neige, avons essayé en vain les échasses et avons joué dans le terrain de jeux.

Si vous voulez aller à la classe rouge, il est préférable d'y aller en octobre lorsqu'il y a de la neige (!) et

surtout, d'apporter des vêtements chauds pour se protéger des intempéries. 



Sumer Sallman, 5B



Kristian Valenta, 5B

Les montagnards expérimentés

PAR NICOLAS TORY, 9A

J eudi et vendredi les 14 et 15 octobre, nous, les étudiants de la neuvième année, avons quitté Selwyn House pour un court voyage. Accompagnés de M. Wearing, Mme Rasmussen et quelques guides expérimentés, nous nous sommes dirigés vers les montagnes Adirondacks dans l'état de New-York pour une expédition brève mais excitante. Le voyage se voulait d'abord un complément au cours de géographie, mais nous a aussi appris quelques rudiments de la vie en plein air.



Tim Rossy, 9A, and Saro Setrakian, 9A

Nous avons quitté l'école de bonne heure jeudi matin pour nous rendre au site du "Canadian Alpine Club" situé au coeur

des Adirondacks. Une fois sur place, après avoir dévoré un savoureux repas préparé par nos guides devenus cuistots, nous avons été divisés en groupes pour permettre à chacun de se familiariser avec un aspect géographique différent: utilisation d'une boussole, lecture et ébauche d'une carte topographique, apprentissage des soins d'urgence. Plus tard, chaque équipe a étalé ses connaissances en participant à une activité où l'on devait partir à la recherche de blessés dans les bois. Après cette journée active, nous avons soupé et avons relaxé près d'un feu; le coucher se fit assez tôt pour avoir l'énergie nécessaire pour la journée suivante.

Vendredi était la journée la plus excitante du voyage, grâce à la belle randonnée pédestre au sommet du mont Rooster Comb. On a quitté le site vers dix heures pour avoir suffisamment de temps pour apprécier la conquête du sommet. En escaladant, on a vu des merveilles géographiques: des cavernes, des chutes d'eau, un petit ruisseau qui coulait le long du sentier et même



Najib Sallman, 9B, with Rob Wearing

un peu de neige observée à mi-chemin. L'événement le plus surprenant fut l'arrivée au sommet, où nous avons joui d'une vue panoramique à couper le souffle. Après avoir diné au sommet, on a entamé la descente qui nous a de nouveau menés à la route principale. Une fois la randonnée terminée, nous sommes retournés au site pour ramasser nos effets personnels et ... de retour à Montréal pour une bonne nuit de sommeil bien méritée! Le voyage aux Adirondacks s'est donc avéré une bonne expérience, et dorénavant, il est indiqué de nous surnommer "les montagnards expérimentés". 



Book Report Adds New Dimension to Math Class

Middle and Senior School students are now required to write a book report for math class.

BY DR. YING ZHENG, MATH TEACHER

Students in math classes are rarely required to write a book report. In fact, many finish high school without ever having to read a book with mathematics as a subject. This year, however, I decided to make writing a book report a project for my math students. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics publishes a wide selection of books for this purpose.

The Grade 7 students received a book called *How to Study Mathematics*, written by James Margenau and Michael Sentlowitz. The timing could not have been



more appropriate, as this book, in simple language and brief style (21 pages in total), is full of tips for learning math in particular, and for building up study skills in general. Students have shown marked improvement after reading the book.

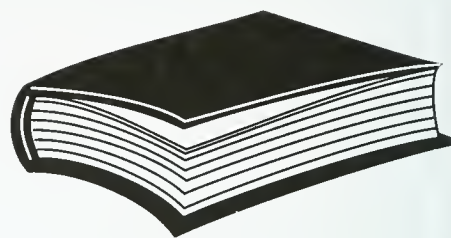
The Grade 8 students got to choose from two titles: *Polyhedron Models for the Classroom* by Magnus J. Wenninger and *Leonardo's Dessert*

by Herbert Wills. Both have proven to be fascinating and inspiring for budding mathematical minds.

Polyhedron Models for the Classroom gives a detailed history of the development of polyhedrons and cut-out models for building all kinds of breathtaking shapes. As a result of this project, the classroom is decorated with colourful, student-built models of all sorts, some so complicated that a highly-developed spatial sense is required to comprehend them. On the other hand, *Leonardo's Dessert* describes the famous mathematician and artist Leonardo da Vinci's venture into geometry, and how this "dessert" of his led to the advancement of some important mathematical concepts. By reading these two books, students are exposed to a particular area of mathematics in depth. Building the models with their own hands especially helps to prepare them for the up-coming solid geometry unit.

Students at the senior level (Grade 10 for this year) got a chance to exercise their critical-thinking skills by critiquing a mathematics article. This has proven to be a challenging project, as it requires the students to apply the synthesized result of their learning to understand and critique another person's crystallized thoughts. They also were required to do certain research on the subject of the article, so that they could demonstrate a thorough

understanding of their reading. The students were given different formats to present their report, ranging from



posters to oral presentations, written essays to classroom performances. This was intended to allow them opportunities to demonstrate their learning in their best capacity.

The outcome of such projects enhances a student's interest and participation in the learning process of math, as well as enriching his learning environment. Again, this has been an encouraging experiment. My sincere thanks to all students who participated in this activity. 

Lend Me Your Ears

Senior Public Speakers Travel to Calgary, Alberta

BY DANIEL WILNER, 10B

The sun's fervent golden aura could be seen dimly on the horizon, as the Senior Public Speaking Team—comprised of Luke Reid, 10A, Andrew Sniderman, 10C, myself and coach Ms. Kathi Biggs—left for Calgary on October 20 to compete in the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Championships. We were also accompanied by three Selwyn House Old Boys now attending Marianopolis: Theo McLaughlin, Alex Bellemare-Davis and Chris Maughan. The tournament was hosted by Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School (STS), an independent high school quite similar to Selwyn House. We were billeted by parents of students of STS.

Upon our arrival in Calgary, the seven of us toured the area, taking in the sites and sounds of one of Canada's important cities, renowned for its Stampede and low taxes.

The next three days were taken up by many hours of intense competition. One hundred and sixty-four high school students, from Canada, the United States, Cypress,

Bermuda, England and Argentina competed in nine different public speaking events—ranging from Impromptu Speaking to Radio Newscast to Parliamentary Debate. Each competitor participated twice in each of his/her three chosen events.

The (touristic) highlight of the trip came after the first two rounds of speaking, when all the teams were bussed to Banff National Park, at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, where we took gondola rides to the top of a mountain and swam in the famous hot springs. It was incredible to see the true magnificence and awesome beauty of the Rockies, indescribable by words alone. Finally, we finished the day with a western-style dinner at the Banff townsite, followed by—who could forget—line dancing.

The next, and last, day of the tournament was taken up by the finals in all nine categories. The top six Canadian speakers would go on to represent our country at the World's Public Speaking Championships, to be held in Cypress in April. Our only Selwyn

finalist was Luke Reid, in Persuasive Speaking, finishing eighth in that event. Andrew's best event also was Persuasive Speaking, as he finished 16th. As for my performance, I finished 10th in After-Dinner Speaking, missing the finals by a mere two places. According to Ms. Biggs, for a first-year team, our performance was very strong.

As we returned to Montreal on October 25, we could not help but miss this exciting town, and, more importantly, the people we had come to meet. I was especially impressed by how the high level of competition did not, in any way, undermine the social amiability of the competitors. The experience acquired by taking part in such an event is invaluable, and we must thank our coach, Ms. Biggs, for all her efforts. The tournament was a great success. I believe that among all the important lessons we learned there the most significant one was that winning is not the most important aspect of competition: doing one's best and having fun are. 🐾

Editor's note: The Marianopolis team of SHS Old Boys placed 3rd in the world, with Theo McLaughlin advancing to the World's Championship in Cypress.



Alex Bellemare-Davis, Chris Maughan, Kathi Biggs, Daniel Wilner, 10B, Theo McLaughlin, Andrew Sniderman, 10C and Luke Reid, 10A



Adirondack Adventure

Grade 9 students finally made their way to the Adirondacks, after their trip was delayed by a hurricane.

BY ANDY ROSENHEK, 9A

Hurricane Floyd almost rained on our parade, but once it blew over, it was the Grade 9 students' turn to pay the great outdoors a visit. On October 14, the Grade 9 class assembled outside the school and loaded up the vans for our two-day trip to the Adirondacks. Our morale was high, as we were excited to finally venture out into the mountains.

As soon as we arrived at our campsite, base camp, we were more formally introduced to our guides for the trip, a search-and-rescue dog that was there to ensure our safety, and the occasional snowflake also greeted us. We were given guidelines on how not to get lost or hurt in the woods, and, most importantly, we were told how to keep warm. The majority of the group proceeded by putting on the rest of their layers of clothing in view of the cold that was emerging.

As we anxiously waited for lunch, games of soccer and football were organized. These were a lot of fun,

even though most games were spent keeping the balls away from the very playful search and rescue dog, Farley.

After lunch, we were separated into groups of about 10 people with one guide, and we were taught different skills that would come in handy while on our treks through the mountains. Some people learned how to use compasses; some learned how to count the paces on a hike; others learned how to read a topographical map, *etc.* Once we learned these new

without too much trouble.

The next morning, after a good night's "sleep", we prepared ourselves for the big hike that lay ahead of us that day. We packed our lunches, filled up our water bottles, and, with cameras in hand, departed to explore the picturesque snow-capped Adirondacks. It was a perfect day for a hike, and the scenery was beautiful. We trekked over big boulders, across streams and waterfalls, ventured into hidden caves and made our way up to the summit by the afternoon. We learned all about the different characteristics of the mountains we were on and had a good time doing so. It was quite an expedition up to the top, and everyone was glad to get down and rest in the vans on the way back.

All in all, the excursion to the Adirondacks was excellent. The guides were great and they taught us a lot. The hike was great fun, and the scenery was breathtaking. A good time was had by all. It was definitely well worth the wait! 



Clockwise from top left: Mathieu Leopold, 9C, Thomas Winiarski, 9C, Devon Soltendieck, 9C, Keith Martin, 9B, Domenico Brunetti, 9B, Edward Cho, 9A, and Christopher Rochon, 9C

concepts, we got a chance to try them out in the woods. We were divided into new groups, with each person having learned a different skill. Each person then had to teach the rest of his peers how to use these skills in the wilderness. With these groups, we were sent on a scavenger hunt through the forest, where we had to find clues posted on the trees to lead us from one place to another and, eventually, to our final destination, base camp. Needless to say, we got lost a few times, but we were still able to find our way back



Learning wilderness survival



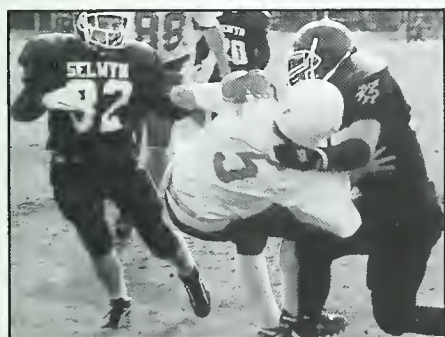
Christopher Rochon, 9C, with Farley, the search-and-rescue dog

Sports Day at Selwyn House

Students, staff and parents participate in Selwyn House's second Sports Day

BY STEVE MITCHELL, ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

The second annual Selwyn House Sports Day was held on Friday, October 9, which featured the Terry Fox Run in the morning at Murray Hill Park, and in the afternoon, events included Midget and Senior soccer games against Northwood School from Lake Placid, New York, which took place at Westmount High and Westmount Park fields.



Andrew Echenberg (left), 11B, and Tristan Schulz, 11A, who tackles opponent

The Physical Education Department organized the 13th Annual Terry Fox Run. Early reports indicate that we raised some \$20,000 for cancer research. Thank you goes out to all members of our student body, parents, our Physical

Education Department and the 32 homeroom teachers who educated their classes about the cause.

Selwyn House was successful in both soccer games. Peter Govan's Midget squad won a hard fought contest by the score of 3 to 0.

Alfie Paoletti's senior boy's soccer team displayed their offensive prowess by scoring two unanswered goals, and held up a late Northwood charge to win 2 to 1.

Senior Football hosted the Rebels from Vaudreuil at Westmount High School. After coming off a big win to powerful D'Arcy McGee High School of Hull, the Senior Gryphons played an impressive second half. A long run by RB Ben Spencer combined with a solid defensive effort led the Gryphons to a 27 to 6 score and the third win of



William Mitchell running with students in annual Terry Fox Run



Mario D'Otolo, 11C



George Martin and Marty Boyle

the season against one defeat. The Bantam Gryphons football team hosted Bishop's College School. This was the second meeting of the year for both schools. The Gryphons won 14 to 8 for the first game. This time, the Baby Gryphons led by Captain Eric Belanger, Alex Bussandri, Scott McMillan, Boule Nguyen and Jonathan Munzar displayed their improved play, and captured the return match by a score of 28 to 0. Congratulations to the 100 athletes who participated in our second annual Sports Day.

After the games, we hosted a BBQ for all of our opponents, players, staff volunteers, alumni, parents and friends.



Emily Beckerleg with her student, Marc Ordonselli, 1A



Sharon Cozens, April Wong, Steve Mitchell and Debbie Dragone cooking hamburgers for the teams



You can't start a fire without a **spark**

SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 18, 2000
9 00 a.m. to 12 00 p.m.
5 30 p.m. to 8 00 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN DAY
Wednesday, January 19, 2000
9 00 a.m. to 12 00 p.m.
Presentation at 10 00 a.m.



To register for exams, please contact Sylvie Bastien-Doss, Director of Admission
Tél (514) 931-2775 Fax (514) 932-8776 admission@selwyn.ca (www.selwyn.ca)
95, chemin Côte St-Antoine, Westmount (Quebec) H3Y 2H8

Notice

The Admission
Office has a new
phone number.
(514) 931-2775

THE ARGYLE SHOP

Shop Hours:

Mondays: 7:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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**100% of the profits from
your purchases directly benefit
our students!**

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to William Martin-Chin, 7B, one of three Quebec students honoured by the Royal Commonwealth Society at its annual members' reception in November.

Deputy Minister of Education of Quebec Elaine Freeland presented William with his award for second prize in Class D in the International Essay Competition. He furthermore, received a congratulatory letter from Quebec Lieutenant Governor Lise Thibault.

William read excerpts from his essay at the reception.

Success Story

Hats off to Mme Nancy Allard-Coutu and the Grades 10 and 11 students for all the hard work they put into raising \$2,814 for the Kidney Foundation of Canada! This year, the students sold 938 bags of peanuts and candy; 175 more bags than last year.

The boys in 11A sold \$500 worth of goods in less than two weeks. Due to their great success, Mr. Rob Wearing granted a free-dress day for all senior students, thereby raising another \$130.52 to benefit the Kidney Foundation.

Selwyn House School has supported the Halloween Campaign of the Kidney Foundation of Canada for over 10 years.

Congratulations

Sue-Ann Pham, Senior Accountant, and husband Philippe Haché are the proud new parents of baby Lilia Thanh Haché, born on October 26, 1999.

Brenda Montgomery, Computer Science Department Head, and Juergen Rilling were happily married on December 10, 1999.

Congratulations to both families on these joyous occasions.

Do you know something we don't?

The Development Office needs your help...

We need up-to-date information on all Selwyn House constituents, such as current and past parents, alumni, staff members, etc. If you have any news (births, deaths, marriages, new jobs, moves, etc.), please let us know.

Tél: (514) 931-9481

Fax: (514) 931-6118

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